

Serial Nr.: 10/003,168
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UPA-01220

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 6-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite because of insufficient antecedent basis for limitations, claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(c) as being anticipated by Benkual et al., and claims 6-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Meier et al. Claims 5, 8 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

In response to the Office Action, claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of the allowable claim 4. The amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 3 should all be allowable. Claim 4 is cancelled.

Claim 5 is rewritten as an independent claim to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim. The amended claim 5 should be allowable.

Claim 6 is amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include the limitations of the allowable claim 8. As a result, the amended claim 6 and its dependent claims 7, and 9-12 should all be allowable. Claim 8 is cancelled.

New claims 13-14 are presented for the allowable claims 10-11 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and

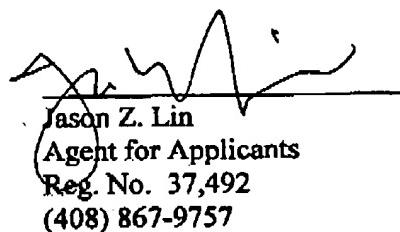
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any intervening claims. Similarly, new claim 15 is presented as an independent claim for the allowable claim 12 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The new claims 13-15 should also be allowable.

The above amendment has been made without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 9-15 are now in full condition for allowance. The above amendment results in two independent claims in excess of three which require an additional filing fee of \$86.00 x 2 = \$172.00 (large entity). A credit card payment form PTO-2038 is attached for covering the fee. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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